



The November meeting featured Stan Sorscher, labor representative at the society of professional employees in Aerospace Industry, who spoke on the impact of Free Trade Policy in Washington State



25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC FOCUS

The 25th Legislative District Re-organizational Meeting will be held Monday December 1st at 7:00pm at the Puyallup Library. At the Re-organizational meeting 25th LD elected PCO's will vote to fill the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, State Committeewoman, State Committeeman, and the three representatives to the Pierce County Democratic Central Committee for the upcoming two year term. Our December General Membership Meeting will follow the Re-organizational meeting in the same location. At the General Membership Meeting the General Membership of the 25th LD will elect a Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Officer, and Sergeant at Arms to serve for the upcoming two year term. The program following the election of officers will be a presentation by Eric Herde on the breakdown of 25th LD votes by precinct for the recent election.

The annual 25th Dems dinner will be held on January 9 at the Puyallup Elks, 314-27th St NE in Puyallup. Doors open at 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm. Cost for the event is \$20 per person and tickets can be purchased at 25dems.org.

Chair's Message

Ed Herde

First of all I would like to congratulate the members of the 25th LD Democrats that worked hard on this election. I was told from several different people that there was more effort put forth by 25th LD members collectively than has been the case in several elections. Even though it was a very bad turn out year for Democrats and the results were far from what we expected, and very far from what we had hoped, we can be optimistic locally because we have a good base of participation and some new strategies from which to build.

Locally it is hard to suffer the loss of Dawn Morrell in the State House. When magnified on a state wide level the loss of Dawn is much greater because the issues she consistently works on in the legislature are still in need of strong advocates. Healthcare including mental health funding, school funding, and her expertise in the budgeting process are just a few areas where all the citizens of the state will suffer with her absence.

The 25th Legislative District has turned into a swing district. The district votes more Republican in mid-term elections when the turnout is low and more Democratic in presidential election years. This one fact jumps out when looking at the results in the 25th LD legislative races in 2012 and 2014. Melanie Stambaugh won the race for House seat #1 this year with 1,136 votes less than the lowest vote total of any of the 6 candidates that ran for the legislature in the 25th LD in 2012. She had fewer votes this year than any of the 3 winners and any of the 3 losers from 2012. She benefited from low turnout.

Looking at 2012 vote totals compared to 2014 totals you would have expected Eric Renz to get a lower count. Eric had a small campaign budget, but he had a message that I believe resonated with some independents that did vote. This tells me that if we can inform our local voters on what is happening, and the positions of the candidates and incumbents we have a good chance of getting 25th LD Democrats back in the legislature. We must facilitate the distribution of information because the national corporate media and the local traditional media are failing in objective journalism.

Nationwide it is obvious that the Republicans have achieved the result from our education system that they have been working for. Voters voting against their own best interests is the result of a test focused system that does not teach critical thinking.

To a Republican Ignorance is Bliss.

Daily Kos

Fri Nov 07, 2014 at 08:47 AM PST

Robert Reich: Why Dems Lost The Election And What They Can Do About It

by [GleninCA](#) Follow
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Today former Secretary of Labor **Robert Reich** gave his take on what Democrats should take away from this week's election loss:

If you want a single reason for why Democrats lost big Tuesday it's this: Median family income continues to drop, the first "recovery" when this has occurred. Meanwhile, all the economic gains are going to the richest Americans. If the Republicans think they can reverse this through their supply-side, trickle-down, fiscal austerity policies, they're profoundly mistaken. The public will soon discover this.

But if the Democrats believe they can reverse it simply by raising taxes on the rich and redistributing to everyone else, they are mistaken, too.

We need to raise the minimum wage, invest in education and infrastructure, lift the cap on income subject to Social Security payroll taxes, resurrect Glass-Steagall and limit the size of the banks, make it easier for low-wage workers to unionize, raise taxes on corporations with high ratios of CEO pay to average worker pay, and much more.

If you want the truth about politics by Frank Blair and Traci Kelly listen to their radio show Fridays at Noon to 1 pm on KLAY 1180 AM.

And if for some reason or other you miss it, then go to equaltimeradio.net. Tune in or be tuned out.

For those of you who missed our November 3rd General Membership meeting here is an article by Stan Sorscher, the speaker at our meeting. This article was published on the news website: commondreams.org

Published on Friday, November 07, 2014 by [Common Dreams](#)

WTO in Seattle - 15 Years Ago

By [Stan Sorscher](#)

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In 1999, most Americans gave our trade negotiators the benefit of the doubt. The burden of proof fell on the labor and environmental protesters in Seattle and other cities. With years of lived experience since NAFTA, many may still not be exactly sure what the global trading system does, but they have more evidence than ever to know that they should be against it. (Photo: Dang Ngo / Rainforest Action Network)

In November 1999, the WTO met in Seattle, where I live, to negotiate the terms of globalization.

I missed it.

At the time, I was negotiating a union contract. Our negotiating teams recommended rejecting a terrible contract offer. Over 98 percent of our members voted "No," leading to a [40-day strike](#) a few weeks later.

My daughter heard about the WTO meeting from friends at school. She asked me if she could cut class with her friend Janine to go to the demonstrations. I told her three things. First, of course! This is history. You must see it. Second, here are two quarters. If you get arrested, call me and I will come get you out. (Cells phones were still a novelty.) Third, stick with Janine. No boys. For each boy you add to your group, your collective IQ drops by half - an old [Dave Barry joke](#), but I know something about this.

I didn't understand the WTO or it's work. My feelings were captured in the movie, *Battle in Seattle* ([great trailer](#)) featuring Charlize Theron, Michelle Rodriguez, and Woody Harrelson. Near the end of the movie, demonstrators are in jail, asking each other if all the planning and effort had been worth it. One said, "last week no one knew about the WTO. This week they still don't, but they're against it."

In the 15 years since, the demonstrators' message has come into focus.

A generation ago, trade deals were about trade. They were really boring, with incomprehensible names like General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The WTO broadened those goals from boring tariffs to regulation, health care, patents, the environment, currency manipulation, financial regulation, immigration, government

procurement, labor rights and human rights - policies that are normally settled through democratic accountable political processes.

NAFTA took effect in 1994, introducing a new format for globalization. NAFTA was designed from the top down to [tip power in favor of global corporations](#), at the expense of civil society.

The WTO met in Seattle to extend NAFTA's corporate-friendly principles to a global standard. Mass opposition in Seattle and elsewhere blocked that effort.

Globalization shifted course. Rather than seeking global consensus at the WTO, where many countries were reluctant, globalization would move forward through "bilateral" agreements. Large countries would have more bargaining power over smaller ones, and the bilateral deals would attract less attention and less opposition. We now have a jumble of hundreds of bilateral agreements.

Today, we are circling in on the global standard, with two new multi-regional agreements - one with 12 countries around the Pacific (TPP), and a second between the U.S. and Europe (TTIP). Again, the issue is not trade. It's about defining the [moral, social, political and economic terms of globalization](#).

Looking back to 1999, it's clear that the WTO and NAFTA-style trade deals were never about economics or shared prosperity. They are really about power relationships. Who will have the [power to claim any new gains](#) created through work?

A European diplomat recently promoted this multi-regional approach, saying the global standards set in these deals would be great for global corporations. TPP and TTIP would [determine how life would be organized in 2050](#).

Thinking back, my union contract negotiations in 1999 and the WTO demonstrations in Seattle were really two sides of the same coin. It's all about power relationships - who will decide how we divide wealth?

At a labor meeting during our strike, our International President told a large crowd that most strikes in the last 20 years were against take-aways, not for new gains. Workers struck to keep what they had.

Our strike marked a huge shift in the our power relationship, as workers. In our old relationship, our CEO had said employees were his most important asset. Our new workplace power relationship looks more like Wal-Mart's approach, adapted to our high-end manufacturing industry. In the Wal-Mart business model, every stakeholder should feel [at risk, contingent and precarious](#). The dominant stakeholder will extract gains from all other stakeholders, then come around and demand more concessions.

Productivity would come from the global supplier network. Any work and any job could be moved to another country, either for lower cost, a weaker civil society, or simply as leverage to play one stakeholder off against another.

If that is global businesses' new business ethic, then the trade deals are creating global norms to serve that goal. This new system is working exactly the way it was designed.

In 1999, most Americans gave our trade negotiators the benefit of the doubt. The burden of proof fell on the labor and environmental protesters in Seattle and other cities. With years of lived experience since NAFTA, the jail scene in the movie looks more perceptive every day. We're not sure what the global trading system does, but we're against it.

Fifteen years on, critics of our trade policy now have the benefit of doubt. The burden of proof falls on the advocates of more NATFA-style deals.

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Stan Sorscher

Stan Sorscher is on staff at Society for Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), a labor union representing aerospace engineers, scientists and technical workers, and is President of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition. He is active in trade, economic development, and other public policy issues. Follow Stan on Twitter: www.twitter.com/sorscher

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Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100. (Can be paid in
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**Please send dues to: 25th LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374 or pay by
credit card on <https://secureform.cloud.clickandpledge.com/20184/1/>
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Democratic Focus for
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NEXT MEETING:

Monday, Dec 1, 7 PM

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